

# My Mom's Indomitable Spirit

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By: Joseph Conigliaro

My mother, now age 79 and the survivor of 4 heart operations, was recently rushed to the hospital for bleeding out of the bowl. The drug, Coumadin, that she was taking for her heart condition thinned the blood and made it easier to circulate, but it also could make the blood so thin that could pass right through her intestines.

One again I had occasion to believe that my mom would be leaving us soon for her heavenly repose and once again I was wrong. You see my mom has an enduring will to live. She survived WWII in Sicily and the sinking of the Andrea Doria in July of '56. She had her first heart operation in 1982, 12 years later an Angioplasty and three years after that another, and some years later a pace maker was installed in her chest along with a defibrillator. Through all this suffering she complained, but always maintained her will to live. In fact she always put her family before herself.

This last time she was hospitalized she had lost so much blood and her heart was so weak that there was nothing the doctor could do for her except to monitor her condition. A transfusion was impossible. The loss of blood was so great that she was in a constant state of delirium. During one visit I had the opportunity to witness my mom's bravery. When the nurse came in to clean my mother up a bit my mom raised her fist to her and raved "You think I going to die. I'm not going to die. I'm not going to die."

Later that evening I saw her stiffen in her bed as she took a shock from the defibrillator implanted in her chest.

The next day I spoke with her physical therapist about her condition and he related to me that her chart said “With all of her operations and tribulations it is a miracle that she is still alive.”

Mom is still lives today, still more worried about me than herself. I often think about how fortunate she has been to live in a time where technology and medicine have advanced so quickly; That such wonderful doctors exist that death can be staved off as it has been so many times for my mother; And I think of my mothers’ indomitable spirit that always chooses hope and life over death.

Ladies and gentlemen suicide is never the answer. Suicide is the denial of faith, hope and charity. If someone wants to commit suicide we should not say, you have your own mind you can choose death. We should say here is a reason to live. If you do not want to live for yourself, live for me, your children, your family, or to prove the doctor wrong, but live, live every second that God grants you on this earth.